

Family Traditions



THE BLISS FAMILY

THE OAKLEYS AND LINDSAYS



THE JENISON FAMILY



THE JONES FAMILY

Celebrating Illinois
Newspaper History

Family Traditions



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FAMILY TRADITIONS

Foreword

It has been more than two years since the Illinois Press Association dedicated its beautiful headquarters on June 22, 2000. Its existence stands as a testament of the strength of Illinois newspapers. In the two years since then, many changes have taken place in the Illinois newspaper business. But, the IPA's commitment to its members and the bedrock spirit of community journalism remains strong.

When the IPA building was constructed, we were fortunate to have the financial support of many members. At the time, one of those contributors was Shaw Newspapers based in Dixon/Sterling. As part of its gift, the Shaw family asked that we continue to honor the importance of Illinois newspaper families and community journalism.

Initially, we produced a book titled "Family Values" to honor six newspaper families. Those six families — McCormick, Copley, Chinigo, Shaw, Macfarland and Small — represented the most generous donors to the building project, and their support of the IPA has continued since then.

We are proud to offer the second publication to honor Illinois newspaper families - appropriately titled "Family Traditions." This successor to the inaugural book chronicles the history and contributions of four families. Included are the Bliss family of Hillsboro and the *Montgomery County News*, the Jenison family of the *Paris Beacon-News*, the Jones family of Virden and Gold Nugget Publications, and the Oakley and Lindsay families of *The Quincy Herald-Whig*.

Each of these families is rich in tradition. Each offers unique contributions to the growth and historical heritage of the state of Illinois. Very few professions are more intertwined in the social, cultural and historical fiber of Illinois communities than are newspapers. These four families and their newspapers are wonderful examples of that bond that exists between newspapers and the people they serve.

We are very proud to make this latest chapter of Illinois family journalism available for your reading enjoyment. I am sure you will find the lives and contributions of these men and women, past and present, both rewarding and interesting.

David L. Bennett

Executive Director, Illinois Press Association

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The News building on Sept. 2, 1909, during an exhibit of Buicks on Courthouse Square.

“ It was my innate sin that kept me from being
a missionary or a preacher. I never intended
to be either. I wanted to be a journalist. ”

—C.W. Bliss



Charles Wesley "C.W." Bliss, 1846-1931

The Montgomery County News and the Bliss family

Sometimes a story doesn't begin at the beginning — it begins later, after several chapters have been written to set the scene. So it is with *The*

Montgomery County News.

The direct ancestor of today's *Montgomery News* goes back to the period shortly after the Civil War. Charles L. and Emma Bangs founded a small paper in Hillsboro, Illinois, in 1869 called the *Hillsboro News Letter*. Uncertain finances made publishing a newspaper a difficult occupation. The paper went through a succession of owners until in February 1892, C.W. Bliss purchased *The Montgomery News*. Since then, it has been all bliss.

Asked later in life why he didn't become a missionary or follow in the footsteps of his father, a circuit riding Methodist minister, C.W. replied, "It was my innate sin that kept me from being a missionary or a preacher. I never intended to be either. I wanted to be a journalist. When I found I would have to buy a paper to be one, and didn't have the money, I studied law, but it was darn near the last resort with me."



Since that first paper on February 15, 1892, a Bliss has been editor or publisher of *The News*. For 110 years, the Bliss family has been intimately involved in writing, producing and often even delivering the newspaper they have created.

C.W. had received a classical education from McKendree College in Lebanon. He taught school for two years at Hardin and at the same time "read law" at the firm of Irwin and Krone in Edwardsville. He was admitted to the bar in 1871 and opened a law office in Hillsboro. Charles and Emma Bangs were among his first friends in Hillsboro.

C.W. practiced law for 20 years, probably keeping the *News Letter* in the back of his mind, and then, as he approached middle age, changed course and finally found a pulpit he could occupy, the editor's chair of a community newspaper.

From his first issue C.W. was immersed in the news business. It would be an all-consuming passion for him, for his son, his two grandsons and now his great-granddaughter. Since that first paper on February 15, 1892, a Bliss has been editor or publisher of *The News*. For 110 years, the Bliss family has been intimately involved in writing, producing and often even delivering the newspaper they have created.

While C.W. was the first, he was joined very soon by his son, Clint. The younger Bliss, unlike his scholarly father, was "allergic" to school. He enjoyed pets and animals and kept many. He even taught a crow to talk.

One day in February 1892, Clint, who had trouble with one teacher in particular, irritated her enough so that she reached into his coat pocket to see what he had hidden there. She found "a mess of wriggling white rats," he

recalled. The next day, at the age of 16, he joined his father in the newspaper business, starting as a printer's devil.

Clint stayed with his father only a short time before furthering his education at Morgan Park Seminary near Chicago and later at Austin College in Effingham, where his grandparents, the Rev. and Mrs. Alfred Bliss lived. Clint did see a bit of the world before settling back at the paper. He served as a secretary to U.S. Senator Ben F. Caldwell in Springfield and then went to Washington to serve as secretary to Judge Thomas M. Jett, a member of Congress.

He returned to Hillsboro and the newspaper in 1903 and except for an eight-year stint as assistant director of the Department of Education and Registration under Illinois Gov. Henry Horner, Clint remained active until failing health forced him to retire.

The third generation, Thomas and Robert, enjoyed the longest span of being in the newspaper business. They both were carrier boys from the age of six, getting their first jobs at the paper during World War I. Tom retired after nearly 50 years in the business and Bob, even at the age of 90, still occasionally produces a column. He says that in his long, productive life, he has had only one employer, *The News*.

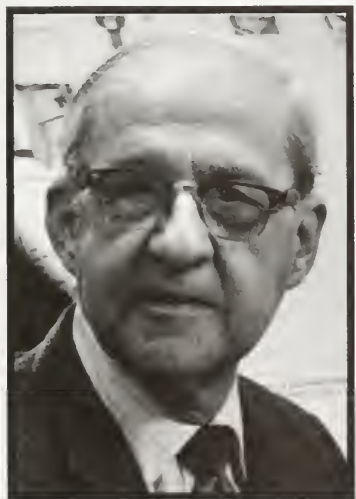
The fourth generation, Nancy Bliss Slepicka, daughter of Bob and Patricia Bliss, often said in her early years that she would never return to Hillsboro to work for the newspaper. After graduating from Northwestern University, not in



Clinton Phillips Bliss,
1875-1958



*Thomas Albert Bliss,
1908-1985*



*Robert Reynolds Bliss,
age 90*



Each generation overlapped with the previous. Clint shared his father's love of writing, of writing the news. The two worked side by side for nearly 30 years, until C.W. died on October 22, 1931. Both Tom and Bob began full-time involvement with the business at about the same time, in the early 1930s. They shared the work with their father except for the period he worked in Springfield.

journalism, she and her husband, Richard, began graduate school in California. But when Nancy was informed that her uncle Tom was retiring, the couple moved back to "give the paper a try." They worked for *The News* for two years, took a year off to do some traveling, and since 1974, they, too, have been totally involved with *The News*.

Each generation overlapped with the previous. Clint shared his father's love of writing the news. The two worked side by side for nearly 30 years, until C.W. died on October 22, 1931. Both Tom and Bob began full-time involvement with the business at about the same time, in the early 1930s. They shared the work with their father except for the period he worked in Springfield.

Clint died on December 29, 1953. Parkinson's disease had made it impossible for him to work after 1951, but he still made almost daily visits to the office.

Tom worked with Bob until January 1970,



Perhaps it was inevitable that Nancy, too, would ultimately carry on after her father and uncle. Her birthday, February 15, could have been considered an omen. When C.W. Bliss walked into *The News* office February 15, 1892, to begin work on his first issue of the newspaper, he probably little expected that four generations later, the family would still be at the same old stand.

when he stepped down to enjoy a few years at a less hectic pace. During his retirement, Tom wrote one book and nearly completed a second. He also wrote a personal memoir for his children and other members of the family.

The book he finished, "The Goose Bone Papers," is a biography of his grandfather, C.W. Bliss, told by Tom using material C.W. had written for the paper. The personal memoir, "Big Shoes to Fill" is also about relationships, of the sons and grandsons to the work of C.W. and Clint. Tom's second book, "Hillsboro, A History," was nearly complete prior to his death and was subsequently finished by his wife, Dorothy.

Bob has been a witness to one of the great centuries. As a young boy he enjoyed tinkering with machines, and when he and Tom became partners in *The News* business, it was Bob who maintained the letterpress equipment, while Tom walked Main Street selling advertising. Both were skilled writers, often injecting the famous Bliss humor that had been a trademark of the paper since C.W.'s first issue.

Nancy has overseen the conversion of the newspaper from letterpress to photo typesetting and later to computer desktop publishing. She has worked in all phases of the business, from billing to production to delivery. In addition to her responsibilities as publisher, she produces

many of the photos seen in the paper, reports and writes, and when the week is over, does pay-roll and other bookkeeping.

C.W. was honored after his death by being named to the Editors' Hall of Fame at the University of Illinois, an honor he shares with Joseph M. Medill, Elijah P. Lovejoy and E.W. Scripps. His involvement with the Illinois Press Association was carried on by his family, especially Bob Bliss, who was IPA president in 1971 and was named Illinois Editor of the Year in 1971.

Bob and Tom were both named Master Editors by the Southern Illinois Press Association in 1968. Their photos in the SIU Journalism School Hall of Fame were recently joined by one of Nancy Bliss Slepicka, named a Master Editor in 2001.

Both Nancy and her father have served on the board of directors of the International Society of Weekly Newspaper Editors, and she is slated to be president in 2002-03. She and Clyde Wills of the *Metropolis Planet* will host the Society's 50th anniversary conference at Pere Marquette State Park, where early ISWNE meetings were held.

Perhaps it was inevitable that Nancy, too, would ultimately carry on after her father and uncle. Her birthday, February 15, could have been considered an omen. When C.W. Bliss walked into *The News* office February 15, 1892,



Nancy Bliss Slepicka,
age 55



The News building today houses the newspaper office and So Many Books, a retail store selling new books, magazines and daily newspapers, that is owned and operated by The Montgomery County News.

to begin work on his first issue of the newspaper, he probably little expected that four generations later, the family would still be at the same old stand. In fact, since 1895, the Blisses have been reporting to work in the very same building.

In those 110 years, they have reported on the happenings of the community, the folly and the failures, the feats and good fortune of their neighbors and friends.

The Blisses have never failed to speak out when they believed it necessary. They have lost subscribers and advertisers when publishing

news their associates and even friends didn't want in the paper, but they never lost the respect of the community.

Will a fifth generation carry on the family tradition? Nancy and Richard's son, Pavel, is a senior majoring in journalism at Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, but he is not yet ready to choose what he knows could be a full-time, lifelong commitment. Regardless, *The Montgomery County News* as published by the Bliss family is enjoying a good run.



The Paris Daily Beacon composing room in the late 1890s

Paris Beacon-News and the Jenison family

The *Paris Daily Beacon-News* (in 2002) observes its 154th anniversary. We are one of the disappearing number of family-owned independent small daily newspapers in Illinois — and the nation. The Jenison family has been at the helm as owners and hands-on managers of the newspaper for 76 of those years, or about half the life of the publication.

The newspaper started as the weekly *Prairie Beacon* in 1848. This was just 25 years after the community of Paris was founded as the county seat of the new (1823) Edgar County. It was the second attempt at publishing a newspaper in the small village, and the first one to succeed. Advocating the Whig party, it switched to the new Republican party and vigorously supported the candidacy of Abraham Lincoln whose career as a circuit lawyer included Paris and Edgar County.

In 1888 the newspaper began a six-day daily publication, in addition to continuing the "*Semi-Weekly Beacon*." It also moved into its own two-story brick building, which continues as part of today's newspaper plant. As was the case for many county seat newspapers, the site chosen was a half block from the courthouse, a half block from the main train station, and a half block from the post office.

The newspaper started under Jacob Harding, a Tennessee printer who desired to move west. His late 19th century descendent, A. Austin Harding, began his musical career with the Beacon Drum & Bugle Corps, and ended it as a famed bandmaster at the University of Illinois. He was a contemporary and friend of John Philip Sousa. Harding is credited with developing the first college marching band - now the nationally-famous Marching Illini.

In 1898 the Paris Beacon Publishing Co., Inc., a stock corporation, was formed. It continues today, with all shares family owned.

Ernest M. Jenison began his newspaper career in the later years of the 19th century in Iowa and eventually became editor and minority owner of the *Fon du Lac (Wisconsin) Daily Commonweal*. The majority stockholder sold his interests to a rival daily and Jenison chose to dispose of his holdings at the same time, rather than go to work for his staff's old rival.

With this income he searched for a small daily newspaper to own and improve, investigating properties in Iowa, Missouri (where he owned farm property) and Illinois. The choice was the *Paris Daily Beacon* whose majority owners were ready to retire. The purchase was completed in 1926 in a community with three newspapers — the afternoon *Daily Beacon*, Republican in political advocacy; the *Paris Daily News*, a morning paper strongly Democratic; and the weekly *Paris Herald*, also leaning toward the Democratic party.

Jenison retained F. M. Leath, one of the previous owners, as editor and set about to bring the *Beacon* up to "metropolitan" standards. He purchased a used 16-page Goss semi-cylindrical press from the neighboring *Danville Commercial-News*, which had outgrown its

capacity. E. M. Jenison added a full-time United Press "wire" service. Circulation was aggressively expanded into nearby counties and communities without daily newspapers. The nearest daily competition was Champaign, Danville, and the two dailies in Terre Haute, Ind.

Within a year, E. M. Jenison had also purchased the rival *Paris Daily News* and combined the papers into the present *Beacon-News*. When the depression struck, the *Herald* ceased publication although remaining in business as a commercial printer. Maurice "Bud" Wittick, a son of the *Herald* owners, later became sports editor

for the new *Beacon-News*, a position he held for a half century despite being confined to a wheelchair since his high school days.

The merger of the papers, expansion of business and circulation, and the need to add regional news coverage caused E. M. Jenison to ask his son Edward to join him in Paris, shifting Ed's study of journalism from the University of Wisconsin to on-the-job training with his father.

Ed Jenison joined the paper as reporter, sports writer, circulation route driver, and whatever other chores his father thought to assign. The accelerated "college of practical knowledge" proved to be fortunate.

Just two years after a completely rebuilt and fully modernized *Beacon-News* building was opened in 1936, E. M. Jenison died suddenly. He left behind a solid foundation and guide for a modern community newspaper, both in editorial philosophy and in technology.

The economic depression in the 1930s did not prevent investment in the paper. The 1936 remodeling resulted in a modern "art deco" exterior, walnut-paneled interior, and a streamlined production layout. All of this continued in efficient use until the change to offset printing in the 1970s.

E. M. Jenison's widow, Mary Lamb Jenison, served as publisher until her death at age 100 in 1972. Ed Jenison became editor in 1938 and in 1939 was joined by his sister, Ernestine Jenison, as associate publisher and business manager. Another sister, Marguerite Pease of Urbana, was director of the Illinois Historical Survey at the



E.M. Jenison



The Paris Beacon-News staff celebrates the opening of the remodeled and modernized newspaper office in 1936, featuring an art-deco structural glass exterior. A Western Union-controlled clock is over the entrance. Publisher E.M. Jennison is standing left, with his son Ed Jenison.

University of Illinois for many years. She also served as an associate publisher. By 1940, Ed Jenison's son "Ned" began "hanging out" as a printer's devil in the back shop.

World War II caused major changes for both the family and the newspaper — as it did for families and businesses throughout the nation.

In the spring of 1942 Ed Jenison volunteered for the U. S. Navy and soon was in officers' training at Quonset Point, R. I. This left his sister Ernestine, men over the age limit, and a number of women, to maintain publication. Ed and family moved to Washington, D.C. for the duration while he alternated between sea duty aboard aircraft carriers in the Pacific, and Office of Naval Intelligence assignments in Washington.

The floodlights that illuminated the "new" building since 1936 were turned off and the paper tightened its belt for wartime. Then, late in 1943, disaster struck.

About 5 a.m. on Nov. 2 the *Beacon's* janitor opened the building, lighted the gas fire which melted the lead used to cast the 50-pound page plates for the press, and started his cleaning duties. Moments later he heard a "whoosh," and found the entire pressroom in flames. A fire door and brick construction of the original two-story building which housed the business and editorial departments saved it, but the one-story frame building housing the composing room and press was totally destroyed. The fire was so intense that lead in galleys of type and the brass linotype matrix flowed like water. Six linotypes, all associated production equipment, job printing equipment, and the Goss press were in ruins.

But, the *Beacon* published its Saturday edition that day — a one-sheet, two-page paper by courtesy of the weekly Kansas (Ill.) Journal plant, 15 miles away.

On Monday, fellow publisher Ben Wier and

his *Charleston Courier* came to the rescue. One linotype was returned to service and relocated in a neighboring shop. Pages were locked up in Paris, carefully loaded onto trucks and driven 30 miles to Charleston, which printed the *Paris Beacon-News* after the *Courier's* run was complete.

Despite the wartime shortages, the *Beacon-News* received a top priority for rebuilding. Newspapers were judged essential to keeping the public informed of the war effort. Remains of the press were disassembled, loaded onto flatcars, and shipped to the Goss plant in Chicago. Additional production equipment was found, a temporary composing room was set up in an adjacent building, and contractors started to rebuild the composing room and pressroom - this time with fireproof materials.

In just over four months, Goss shipped back a rebuilt press. A new one-story concrete and masonry building replaced the charred remains, and the *Beacon* production staff moved back home.

Victory in the Pacific sent all the naval reservists, including Lt. Cmdr. Ed Jenison, back to civilian life — but not necessarily to resume life as editor of the *Beacon-News*. Before the war, Ed had been active in several statewide organizations including the Illinois State Chamber of Commerce, and the Inland Daily Newspaper Markets, which promoted newspaper advertising. In 1945 veteran Congresswoman Jessie Sumner from Vermilion County, just north of Paris, announced her decision to retire and suggested Ed Jenison as a candidate to run for her seat. The 23rd district, centered around Vermilion and Edgar counties on the north, Effingham, Crawford and Lawrence to the south, was considered a strong Republican district. Ed Jenison depended on the party to secure his nomination, but was discharged in time to campaign for the fall election. He won a seat in the 80th Congress — but with Harry Truman as president, not Tom Dewey as was generally predicted.

Ed Jenison served three terms in Congress and still maintained his supervision of the newspaper — half a year in Washington, half back in Paris. Meanwhile Ernestine Jenison continued the “hands on” management in the office. Ed’s son Edward “Ned” Jenison headed toward third-generation participation by enrolling at the University of Illinois to major in journalism and minor in political science and history.

In the 1950 census, Illinois lost a congress-



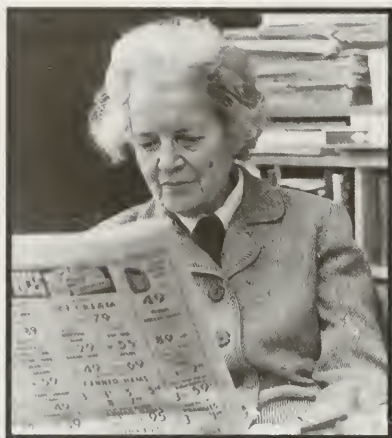
Ed Jenison, editor from 1936-1996, editor and publisher from 1962-1996



**Despite wartime shortages, the
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sional district, and the redrawn map merged the 23rd district with a predominately Democratic district reaching well into south and southwest Illinois. The district had a popular and veteran Democratic incumbent. It was a close election in 1952, but the new district remained Democratic, and Ed Jenison returned to just newspaper publishing - briefly.

In 1960 Gov. William Stratton appointed Ed to complete a term as director of the Illinois Department of Finance. Ed also served two terms in the Illinois House of Representatives, elected once during the infamous “at large” balloting when the General Assembly was unable to agree on new districts. He also served as a



*Ernestine Jenison, associate publisher
from 1938-1994*

delegate to the Illinois Constitutional Convention in 1970, which met in the historic old state capitol in Springfield.

Ned Jenison graduated in 1954 with a journalism degree, and four enjoyable years on the *Daily Illini*. He got married (three days before commencement), and entered the U. S. Army for two years duty. Ned was assigned, with rare good judgment on the Army's part, to intelligence interviews back in his alternate home town (1944-52) of Washington, D. C. His son Edward Kevin, who was to become the fourth generation managing the *Beacon-News*, took his first steps on the lawn at Mt. Vernon. Resisting all offers to "re-up" with the Army, Ned, wife Margaret and sons Kevin and Jim returned to Illinois. Although he planned to rejoin the family paper, Ned heeded his father's advise to "work for someone else" and, hopefully, learn a bit more practical journalism. He accepted the opening as Farm Editor with the Lindsey-Shaub-owned *Urbana Courier* and moved back to Champaign for two years. The most valuable result was a two-year study under *Courier* editor Bob Sink, a gaunt, driven journalist whose joy was the battle against the larger, and better financed, *News-Gazette*. Sink was a real-life character straight out of the "Front Page."

Ned Jenison returned to the *Beacon-News* in 1959 as reporter and photographer, a step up

from previous duties as a "printers' devil." By 1970 it was evident the old Goss letterpress had neither sufficient capacity nor reliability to live forever, and the choice was replacement with a newer letterpress, or to join the trend toward "offset," with the availability of the new small press lines, primarily from Goss and King. Ned Jenison was handed the task to research, plan and design the paper's first major production investment since the tape-fed "Electron" linotype had arrived a decade earlier. The completed plan involved purchase of two adjoining business buildings and construction of a new press-room, purchase of a Goss six-unit Community press with double folder, and all the associated "first generation" equipment needed to "go off-set." One marvel of this new electronic age was the Compugraphic high-speed phototypesetter — a mysterious contraption of flashing lights and spinning tape that came complete with a suitcase-full of repair and support parts. When it was up and running it could "set" 60 lines a minute of "straight matter."

The *Beacon-News* ran its final edition on the Goss rotary press on Saturday, April 13, 1974, and using its same, but retrained production staff, successfully printed the first offset edition, complete with a process-color cover page, on Monday, April 15.

Ernestine Jenison died at age 95 in 1994, and Ed Jenison died June 25, 1996, after a brief bout with cancer. He remained active at the paper each day through early spring, and signed his final payroll just two weeks before the end of his newspaper career. Currently Ned Jenison serves as editor and publisher. His son Kevin Jenison joined the paper after studying journalism at Indiana State University, Terre Haute. He was editor of the college newspaper his junior year, and had the good foresight to "demote" himself to sports editor his senior year and travel with Larry Bird and team on the road to the NCAA championship game in Salt Lake City. Kevin Jenison is currently an associate publisher, general manager — and technology expert for the newspaper.

Ed Jenison's widow, Barbara, is active at age 93 at the family home in Paris. She, together with Ned Jenison, and his sons Kevin, James and Stephen, currently comprise the Beacon Publishing Company board of directors.

Ed Jenison had a personality far from the fiery and fractious editors of the 19th century. He presented a quiet, steadfast and determined outlook to help make Paris a better community,



The Jenison family looks over the first offset edition published April 15, 1974. From left, front row, are associate publishers Ernestine Jenison and Marguerite Jenison Pease, Mrs. Ed (Barbara) Jenison, and publisher Ed Jenison. Standing back, at right, is Ed Jenison's son Ned, and left, Ned's son Kevin, now the third and fourth generations managing the newspaper.

quick to praise and support good causes, slow to condemn and often a quieting influence on controversy. He was always modest about his own accomplishments, but others spoke for him. United Press-International recognized Ed Jenison as Illinois Editor of the Year in 1982. The Southern Illinois Editorial Association followed several years later by naming Ed a "Master Editor." Illinois Gov. Jim Thompson announced Paris would be the site for a new Department of Corrections Work Camp, a major economic boost for the area, and added that it would be named the "Ed Jenison Work Camp" in recognition for Ed's service to the community and the state. Ed was gracious in thanking the governor, and added, "I guess as long as it has 'work' in its title, it will be OK."

The *Beacon-News*, like many smaller papers, has been the training ground for journalists advancing their careers, and Ed Jenison was proud of his "alums." Among them were Bill Allen, a UI journalism gradu-

ate who started on the "Beacon," moved on to the *Champaign News-Gazette*, and then became Secretary of Information for the Illinois Agricultural Association. Joe Sims, another journalism grad from Paris, started with the *Beacon-News*, and then joined United Press-International to become its leading South American bureau staffer. Chris Sprague became an editor for the *Kankakee Daily Journal*. The list is extensive.

The future for small, independently-owned newspapers is challenging, to say the least. "The important thing to keep in mind," Ned Jenison reminds the staff, "is that we are in the information business, not necessarily the 'newspaper' business. People are always going to demand information, especially in close-knit communities found in east-central Illinois. We have the information-gathering skill and technology. How the product gets delivered will be determined by the future."



Charles Jones with his sons Nathan, Norris and Martin

The Jones Family Mines a Gold Nugget

If it hadn't been for a dry season and a failed crop, these descendents of Norris Goode might still be farming the land in North Macoupin County. Instead, they are heirs to a newspaper tradition that goes back almost 100 years. They have carried the mantle well, spawning Gold Nugget Publications, a family-run newspaper chain that now spans four generations.

In 1903, while still in high school, Goode learned to set type at *The Palmyra Transcript*. Two years later, he responded to a call for help from *The Carlinville Democrat* when its labor force went on strike. "I learned quite a bit in the short time I was there," he later related to a colleague in detailing his early years in the business. "I went to Girard and worked with Fred Tipton on *The Girard Gazette* from 1905 to 1906. Wanderlust took me to Tucumcari, New Mexico to visit a chum. I worked there a few months, then came home to help my parents on the farm."

Drought and crop failure convinced him that "printing couldn't be worse than that," so he took off for Seattle to brush up on his typesetting skills. He served as foreman in a small newspaper office in Columbia Station, a Seattle suburb, and in 1910, went to linotype school in San Francisco. "The first job I was sent to was at Klamath Falls, Oregon. I did my assignment there and returned to the Bay Area where the International Typographical Union kept me busy so that I didn't go hungry, long at a time. I came back to the land of my birth and took my "best girl" as my bride for a wedding trip to California."

He and his bride, Sarah A. Smith of Palmyra, tried farming for three years, but gave up after three years of drought. He left the farm in North Otter and moved to Virden in April 1916, buying *The Virden Reporter*. In 1921, he and a partner, John Campbell, bought a competing newspaper, *The Record* and consolidated the two publications into one, renaming it *The Virden Recorder*. Campbell, a diabetic, died a few months later and Goode bought his part of the business. Learning that Fred Tipton wanted to sell *The Girard Gazette*, he bought that in 1925.

"In due time, I had the mechanical side of the publishing business of the two papers all done in the Virden office." He was the sole editor and publisher for nearly 32 years, retiring in March 1948 and turning over the operation to three of his daughters. Shortly after his retirement at age 62, Goode developed glaucoma and was left totally blind. He remained in good spirit until his death in 1974.

In a letter written when he was 79 to Arthur Strang, then secretary of the Illinois Press Association, Goode said he had "a lot of fun during my years in the business" and even though glaucoma "threw a monkey wrench into the cogs," he was "keeping up with news of the world through radio, magazines on record and enjoying the many Services for the Blind that I had no idea existed."

Being an editor and publisher in Goode's day wasn't easy. A special supplement published in 1998 to mark his daughter Dorothy and son-in-law Charles E. Jones' 50th anniversary as newspaper publishers, noted that running a newspaper back then was very physical work. "The news stories were created by a linotype that spit out a slug of lead for each line of type. A page of type

weighed over 100 pounds. Newspaper owners knew about recycling as each week, the local staff re-melted that lead into new ingots to be fed into another issue."

During the Depression, Goode had to abandon an old, unreliable folding machine but could not afford a replacement. His family took on "the laborious job of folding them by hand." Another Goode household tradition was proofreading. Goode would bring the galley proofs home and the family would pair off to read and compare what had been typeset to the written articles.

"That exercise embedded an appreciation for accuracy, spelling, proper word usage, simplicity, and unambiguous writing,"

When Goode retired, three of his daughters—Annabel Goode, Bertha Hoeflin and Dorothy Jones—took over the company's reins. That new partnership expanded with the addition of his sons-in-law, Charles E. Jones and Louis Hoeflin and continued until September 1959 when the Hoeflins moved to California and Dorothy and Charles Jones purchased the Hoeflin shares. The Joneses established *The Farmersville Press* in September 1964 and *The Northwestern News* in June 1969. Annabel Goode, a schoolteacher who moved to Hawaii in 1956, was a silent partner in the

family business until her death in June, 1971. When Annabel died, it left Dorothy and Charles with sole ownership and control of four publications. They had five children—twins Nathan and Norris, Martin, JoD and Julie—and each took their turn helping out with the business. The boys helped stack the papers just as their mother had done as a child.

Jones, a Virden native, learned the printing business in high school, teaching his wife how to run the Linotype machine, something her own father never got around to doing. The hours were long and everyone worked late on press days. Many times, the twins, Nathan, Norris and their brother, Martin, slept on the front desk or on bundles of old newspapers while waiting for the press run to get underway so the twins could feed the folder and Martin could catch the folded papers. "It took a lot more hours to get the paper out than it does now. We used to work all night, one night a week, sometimes two nights a week," Dorothy Jones recalls.



Norris Goode



Lou Hoeflin and Charles Jones

In a 1992 article about the Jones family in the *Illinois Publisher*, Norris Jones remembered the time Nathan knocked over a California job case in the back shop of the family newspaper. "The case held drawers that kept the tiny bits of type used on the press separated. When the drawers tumbled out of the case, every letter, space and punctuation mark scattered on the floor like loose marbles. His father handed him a diagram of the case showing the placement of each piece of type. It took the seven-year-olds a week and a half to locate, scrutinize and return to its drawer the thousands of pieces of type, some barely large enough to read. Their father's stern and watchful eye told them that this was an accident to be remembered and not repeated."

When Virden's Central School Building at 169 West Jackson Street went on the auction block in November, 1965, Charles Jones was the successful bidder. After remodeling it, the Joneses moved into the former schoolhouse, making the second floor their new family residence. Offices, the sales area and office supplies were on the first

floor, the presses in the basement. Dorothy and Charles still live on the upper floor, a collection of classrooms, each retaining its blackboard and exterior room identification number. The setting was familiar. Dorothy and her siblings attended school there, as well as her sons.

In 1976, the Joneses changed the name of *The Farmersville Press* to *The Panhandle Press*. The move reflected expansion of news coverage to all the communities served by the area school district, including Farmersville, Harvel, Waggoner and Raymond. It was in the early 70's, however, that Charles Jones came up with a concept that would eventually shape the newspaper chain's operations and give the company a new corporate image and name, Gold Nugget Publications.

Scanning a Metro book—which in the pre-computer era, provided newspaper editors and advertising managers with clip art—Jones spotted a small illustration that spawned one of the largest and most unique classified promotions ever run. A small pirate cartoon started Jones thinking about a way that he could expand both



A school group wearing pirate hats tours the mailroom.

subscriptions and his chain's classified section. The result was *The Gold Nugget*, a weekly tabloid section printed on yellow newsprint. *The Gold Nugget*, which then as now runs common to all the newspapers in the chain, was billed as symbolic of the treasure trove to be found in the want ads.

As part of the promotion, Jones created a fictional cast of characters that included an old captain, his parrot and their treasure chest of gold. Once the staff was sold on the idea, Jones borrowed a live green parrot to entertain children and put on a parrot show at local fairs. Later, the Joneses would own six parrots that they used in promoting the section. Jones also collected marine items such as ship lights, fish nets, treasure maps, pirate pieces of eight, barnacles, port holes, model sailing ships, and treasure chests, some of which were displayed in a Captain's Room at the newspaper's offices, to the delight of area youngsters. In short order, it became a prime destination for school tours, the young visitors donning paper pirate hats which Jones distributed to mark their visit.

With the *Gold Nugget* name firmly entrenched, in 1980 the Joneses incorporated the four newspapers—*The Panhandle Press*, *The Virden Recorder*, *The Northwestern News*, and *The Girard Gazette*—into Gold Nugget Publications.



The current location in the former Virden Central School Building

Apart from themselves, other stockholders were their children, Nathan, Norris, Martin, JoD Jones (Apitz) and Julie Jones (Westerhausen). In 1984, Nathan, Norris, and Martin formed a separate corporation with two other publishers to establish Five Star Printing, a central printing plant in Virden. A year later, the four-unit offset press was in operation alongside the Virden newspaper office with Marty devoting full time to its success.

Taking an unpopular stand is never easy for a newspaper publisher. When a proposal to consolidate the Virden-Girard schools was defeated in May, 1961, Jones almost took it on the chin.

His newspapers had actively endorsed the plan, to the ire of a former Golden Gloves champion who challenged Jones to put on boxing gloves. At the time, Jones weighed about 125 pounds.

Jones responded with a one-two punch to the funny bone.

Addressing the issue in his column after learning some were suggesting boycotting the newspaper for its stand, Jones wrote:

"That is community spirit, this will aid in Virden's progress...kill the newspaper...sock the editor in the nose. I did not realize this was the issue. If it were, I would feel obliged to hire boxers instead of editors and writers, linotype operators or pressmen."



On the Joneses' 50th anniversary as publishers, Dorothy Jones said her father's accomplishment of publishing a newspaper for 32 years gave her a personal goal. "But I just intended to edge his record slightly before retiring. Now, with 54 years as publisher, I can certainly say I have the "tired" part down pat but I haven't quite figured out the "re" of it yet." Although much of the day-to-day operation of the newspaper chain has been turned over to her children, Dorothy Jones has still to do the "re".

"Mom, who just marked her 80th birthday, still pays all the bills, takes care of the legals, and orders all of the office supplies for the office supply store," says Julie Jones Westerhausen, who is overseeing the day-to-day operations of the newspaper chain while her twin brothers Nathan and Norris, are on active duty with the Navy. Normally she would handle circulation and office managing. The mother of two children, Westerhausen had planned to go into teaching, moved to California and came back. "I just couldn't be away. We've been in it our whole lives." Some of Dorothy and Charles' 13 grandchildren are already active in the news business. Nathan's 15-year-old daughter, for example, helps her aunt with the bookkeeping. Several other grandchildren are already pursuing journalism careers.

Westerhausen's sister, JoD, who lives in California and worked for *The Los Angeles Times*, gives her "phone support everyday" and, says Westerhausen, everyone who works for the com-

pany is putting in extra duty until Nathan and Norris return. Nathan, who is general manager and controller of Gold Nugget Publications, was recently reactivated and assigned to the Pentagon. His brother, who serves as editor, returned to the family operation this spring, after a 4-month Navy assignment in Central America. Both hold degrees from Southern Illinois University in Carbondale where they were named outstanding graduates in journalism. Their brother Martin, production manager for both Gold Nugget and Five Star, holds a degree in psychology. JoD also holds a journalism degree.

Like his father before him, Nathan is a past-president of the Illinois Press Association, heading the IPA in 1998 and serving on the board of directors in 1999. Charles Jones served as president from 1983 to 1984. Nathan's grandfather, Norris Goode, was a member of the IPA for his entire publishing career, serving one term as treasurer. The chain has been the consistent recipient of dozens of awards from the IPA, SIEA and in national competitions for virtually every phase of its operations, from editorials to advertising. Charlie and Nathan both currently serve on the IPA Foundation board of directors.

Dorothy and Charles are both award-winning columnists, she for "the thing of it is..." and he for "Keeping Up With The Joneses" which he wrote until this past August when he underwent surgery. He plans to resume the column soon.



Three generations: Norris Goode, daughter Dorothy and her son, Martin.

Dorothy, her desk swarming with papers, has no regrets about staying active in the newspaper business. "It's always satisfying work. That's what has kept us and our children in it. You feel good about what you do for the community and develop a real love of history and continuity. I feel great each day. There's something that pulls you to the challenge of today."

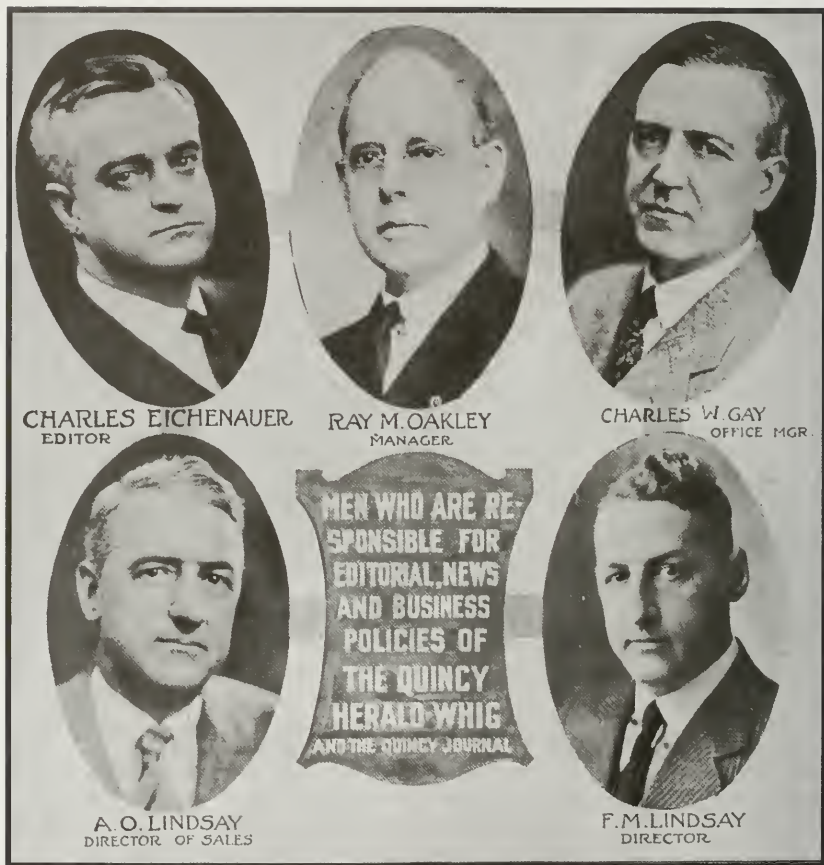
The senior Joneses have a long relationship with the communities they serve and have played an integral role in the fabric of daily life. Both have been active in their church and in community organizations. In 1998, Charles was honored for a half-century of service with the Virden Fire Department. A year earlier, he was named Virden's first ever Citizen of the Year.

In making that presentation, the president of the Virden Area Association of Commerce noted that Jones "has touched the lives, in some form or another, of every single person in Virden and the surrounding communities...every single person." That came as no surprise to Westerhausen.

"Most of the town has been employed by the newspaper at one time or another," she says.

Jones has also been honored by the Southern Illinois University School of Journalism, which named him a Master Editor. The designation put him in the institution's Journalism Hall of Fame, which is reserved for those who have given distinguished service in the field of American Journalism. He also has served as president of the Southern Illinois Editorial Association, a position that also has been held by both Nathan and Norris.

For the Jones family, life, community and newspapering have always been intertwined. Dorothy Jones summed it up best, in a column about the joys of sharing ideas and getting together with fellow journalists: "We could be prejudiced, but it really seems to us that editors who really try to do a good job for their community are the hardest working, nicest bunch of people, anywhere."



The first board of directors of Quincy Newspapers Inc., in 1926.



The Herald-Whig can trace its roots to *The Illinois Bounty Land Register*.

The owners, C.M. Woods and Dunbar Aldrich, published the first edition on April 17, 1835, seventeen years after Illinois achieved statehood.

At the time, there were only three other newspapers in the state.

The Oakleys, The Lindsays & The Company They Built

The story of Quincy Newspapers Inc. (QNI) is a tale of two families and five generations of leadership that nurtured a single newspaper into a multi-media company now employing 940 people and serving markets in 14 states.

Successive generations of the QNI founding families, the Oakleys of Quincy with roots in Rockford and the Lindsays of Decatur, guided that growth. Throughout the decades, family members have dedicated themselves and the resources of QNI to providing the news and to helping the communities and regions in which they operate, grow and prosper.

QNI is a corporation that was formed in 1926 to publish the newly merged *Herald-Whig*, the sole heir to a long line of Quincy publications and a direct descendant of the first newspaper in Adams County. *The Herald-Whig* printed its first edition on June 1, 1926. *The Herald-Whig* can trace its roots to *The Illinois Bounty Land Register*. The owners, C.M. Woods and Dunbar Aldrich, published the first edition on April 17, 1835, seventeen years after Illinois achieved statehood. At the time, there were only three other newspapers in the state, publishing in Jacksonville, Springfield and Galena. A year later, John H. Pettit of Cincinnati purchased the Register and renamed it *The Quincy Argus & Illinois Bounty Land Register*. In 1841 this name was changed to *The Herald*, and in 1842 C.M. Woods purchased back Pettit's interest and shared ownership with a nephew of Pettit's, Austin Brooks. The first daily edition was published in 1850.

By 1890, *The Herald* had changed hands no less than four times and the original building it occupied on the southwest corner of Fourth and Maine streets had been destroyed by fire. The Quincy Herald Co. was incorporated that year and the stock was sold to Mrs. Ida Morris. In 1891, the stock was acquired by Edmund M. Botsford, Hedley H. Eaton and Charles L. Miller, experienced newspapermen from Rockford. Miller's sister, Hannah, had married Aaron Burr Oakley in 1858. In 1895, A.B. Oakley joined his

son, Ray Miller Oakley, at *The Herald* where Ray worked in the business office. A.B. Oakley thus became the first of five generations of Oakleys involved as owners, managers or employees of what is now QNI.

In 1893, *The Herald* changed from a morning to an afternoon paper and, in 1896, Miller left Quincy to return to Rockford. In 1907 the old Congregational Church building at Fifth and Jersey was remodeled, becoming Herald Square and the paper's new home. Ray M. Oakley was taken in as a member of *The Herald* corporation in 1909 and became business manager in 1913.

In the meantime, *The Quincy Whig* began publication as a weekly newspaper in May 1838, owned by Maj. Henry V. Sullivan, Nehemiah Bushnell and Andrew Johnston, and became a daily on March 22, 1852. *The Quincy Whig* was incorporated in 1869, or 11 years after it had consolidated with *The Quincy Republican*, which was started in 1857 under F.A. Dallam. *The Quincy Whig* also transferred ownership several times between 1869 and 1915.

Across the state, the Lindsay family was gaining prominence as newspaper publishers in Decatur. In 1874, John Lindsay began operating the *Decatur Review* and, in 1885, founded the *Decatur Labor Bulletin*. *The Labor Bulletin* became the *News* and was consolidated with the *Decatur Herald* in 1898. Two of John and Edna Nicholson Lindsay's sons, Frank and Arthur, also pursued careers in the newspaper industry. They



Members of the editorial, business and mechanical staffs of The Quincy Herald in a photograph dated June 27, 1896. Standing from left are John Stewart, reporter; Sherman Irish, pressman; Ray M. Oakley, bookkeeper; Charles Ritchie, printer foreman; Aaron B. Oakley, collector. Seated from left are Major J.J. Linton, reporter; Edmund M. Botsford, associate editor; Charles L. Miller, editor; Hedley J. Eaton, business manager, and Eugene Browne, assistant editor and reporter.

would become key players when the business interests of the two newspaper families intersected. That occurred in 1915, when Mrs. Anna Ellis sold *The Whig* to the two Lindsay brothers, with Arthur O. Lindsay moving from Birmingham, Ala., where he was assistant manager of *The Ledger*, to become president and general manager of *The Whig*. Frank remained in Decatur, where he became involved in the merger of *The Herald* with *The Review*, owned by the Schaub family, and the formation of Lindsay-Schaub Newspapers Inc. That company eventually grew to include several newspaper and broadcast properties, which were sold in 1979 and 1983 respectively.

In 1920 *The Whig* purchased *The Quincy Journal*, which had begun publication on Sept. 11, 1863, under a corporation organized by James H. Richardson, Hiram N. Wheeler and others. At

this point, the company became *The Whig-Journal*.

For six years *The Quincy Herald* and *The Whig-Journal* competed, each publishing evening city, morning rural, and Sunday editions. In 1926, the two decided to merge, forming *The Quincy Herald-Whig* and its parent corporation, Quincy Newspapers, Inc. The operating managers of the newspaper then were Charles F. Eichenauer, editor; Ray M. Oakley, general manager; Arthur O. Lindsay Sr., director of sales; and Charles W. Gay, office manager. Officers of Quincy Newspapers Inc. were A.O. Lindsay Sr., president; Charles F. Eichenauer, vice president; Ray M. Oakley, secretary-treasurer; and Charles W. Gay and Frank M. Lindsay Sr., directors.

Two of Ray M. Oakley's four sons would take on roles of increasing responsibility in the company beginning in the 1940s, Allen M. Oakley in



This building became the new home of The Herald in 1907 after the newspaper's owners spent \$9,000 to remodel a former church building on the site. A three-story addition to the back of the building was completed in 1928 and housed the operations of The Herald-Whig until 1962, when construction of the present building began. That project involved demolishing the 1928 building to make room for a new office structure and remodeling of the 1928 addition.

the editorial operation and Thomas Crawford Oakley on the business side.

Allen Oakley's career would span 60 years, beginning in 1924 when he joined *The Herald* as a reporter two years before the consolidation. He retired as editor of *The Herald-Whig* in 1983.

T.C. Oakley began working full-time at *The Herald-Whig* in 1929. He was named secretary-treasurer of QNI in 1944, and in 1948 was named general manager of *The Herald-Whig* and president of Quincy Broadcasting. In 1965, he was named executive vice president of QNI and vice-president of Quincy Cablevision Inc.

Ray Oakley died in 1948 and, with the death of A. O. Lindsay Sr. in 1956, T.C. Oakley assumed overall responsibility for the company. T.C. Oakley's son, Thomas A. Oakley, joined the newspaper full-time in 1954. When T.C. Oakley died in 1969, T.A. Oakley became general manager of *The Herald-Whig* and executive vice pres-

ident of QNI. In 1971, T.A. Oakley was made president and CEO of QNI and publisher of *The Herald-Whig*. Also that year, Frank M. Lindsay Jr., whose father was one of the founders of *The Herald-Whig*, was named chairman of the QNI board and continued in that capacity until his death in 2001. A.O. Lindsay's son, A. O. Lindsay Jr., joined the company as an apprentice printer at *The Herald-Whig* during the Depression, retiring in 1974 after 44 years with the company.

The building housing *The Herald-Whig* was expanded and modernized several times under the management of T.C. Oakley and T.A. Oakley to accommodate growth in the newspaper's operations and advances in technology. The three-story building now stretches for a half-block in the heart of downtown Quincy, a unique multi-level facility housing a state-of-the-art publishing operation and the corporate offices of QNI.

The company branched out into broadcasting



The corporation, family members and senior management have contributed in many ways to the markets in which they operate.

under T.C. Oakley's leadership, establishing the first FM station to serve the Quincy area, WQDI, in 1947. In 1948, QNI entered the AM radio field with the purchase of Quincy Broadcasting Co., which established WGEM, the area's second AM station, earlier that year. In 1953, Quincy Broadcasting launched WGEM-TV, the first television station in Quincy. QNI, along with Continental Cablevision, brought one of the early cable systems to the area in the 1960s, serving Quincy and soon afterwards Keokuk, Hamilton, Carthage and Kewanee. The company expanded its newspaper operation in 1969, joining with a group of publishers to purchase the *New Jersey Herald* in Newton, N.J. In 1985, QNI became the sole owners of that newspaper.

In 1974, the company under T.A. Oakley's leadership sold its interest in cable television and began expanding its local free over-the-air television holdings. QNI purchased WSJV-TV (FOX) in South Bend-Elkhart, Ind., in 1975, followed in 1976 with the purchase of KTTC (NBC) in Rochester, Minn., and in 1979 with WVVA (NBC) in Bluefield, W.Va. The company purchased KTIV (NBC) in Sioux City, Iowa, in 1989 and WREX (NBC) in Rockford, Ill., in 1995. In 2000, QNI purchased the Shockley company, which owned ABC stations in five Wisconsin markets. Those stations are WKOW in Madison, WXOW in LaCrosse, WQOW in Eau Claire, WAOW in Wausau and WYOW in Eagle River. QNI is currently developing a Wide Area Network to provide high-speed information sharing among all the properties that now comprise the corporation.

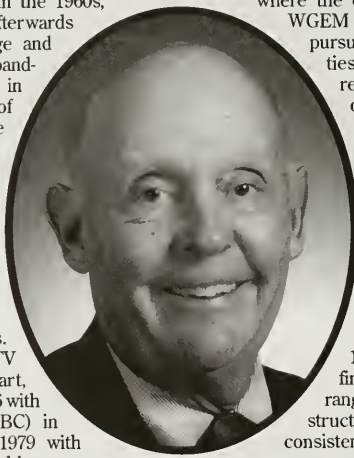
Both QNI newspapers are fully paginated, digital operations employing the latest in pre-press

and production technology. The QNI broadcast properties also have been in the forefront of technological innovation, including the early introduction of high definition television into their markets. The company is presently developing an operations center that will serve all broadcast properties. This \$2 million project represents not only a significant investment in the future of the company but in the downtown Quincy area

where the center is located adjacent to WGEM AM-FM-TV. QNI is actively pursuing convergence opportunities that bring together the resources of its broadcasting operations and newspapers to serve readers and viewers in all of its markets across all platforms: print, radio, television and over the Internet.

The corporation, family members and senior management have contributed over the years in many ways to the markets in which they operate. The Oakley-Lindsay Foundation, established in 1969, has provided significant financial support to meet a wide range of social, cultural and infrastructure needs. The foundation is a consistent supporter of capital campaigns in the communities that QNI serves and, in many cases, company employees have led those efforts. One of the most significant series of contribu-

tions occurred in 1992 and 1993, when the Foundation and family members contributed a total of \$750,000 to construct what would become the Oakley-Lindsay Center in Quincy. The \$7.2 million civic center features a 30,000-square-foot exhibition hall, 520-seat theater and low-cost office space for several community organizations. The center revitalized a blighted area of the community and has served as a venue for a wide range of activities including concerts, exhibits, and sporting events.



*Thomas A. Oakley,
president of Quincy Newspapers Inc.
and publisher of The Herald-Whig.*



The current building.

T. A. Oakley, QNI president and CEO, has played a sustained leadership role in fostering regional economic development and, most importantly, improvements to the transportation infrastructure serving West-central Illinois, Northeast Missouri and Southeast Iowa. That region of Illinois, once so ill-served and overlooked that it was dubbed Forgottonia, is now at the heart of a network of interstate and limited-access highways linking Chicago, Kansas City, St. Paul, Minn., St. Louis, Mo., and other cities across the Midwest. Oakley has been a tireless proponent of expanded airline service and improved river navigation, and has been a central figure in the activities of the Tri-State Development Summit. This gathering of top-echelon economic and political leaders from Iowa, Illinois and Missouri has been held regularly since 1996. Various committees ensure that progress continues on projects that will best benefit the region as a whole.

QNI and its officers provide corporate and personal leadership in each market they serve. Such individual and corporate efforts have led to many awards and honors at the local, state and national level. Additionally, members of the

Oakley family have assumed important leadership responsibilities in the newspaper and broadcast industries.

Five generations of the Oakley family have played key roles in the growth of QNI as it evolved from a single newspaper to a multi-media communications corporation. T.A. Oakley and his brother, Peter A. "Tony" Oakley, represent the fourth generation of the family to have worked for the company. A third brother, David Oakley, and his son, David Oakley Jr., also have worked for the company. T.A. Oakley's two children, Ralph M. Oakley and Mary Winters, represent the fifth generation, along with David Oakley Sr.'s son, Tim, and Peter A. Oakley's son, Peter. Peter A. "Tony" Oakley, who joined the company in 1959, served as circulation manager from 1966 to June 1995, when he was named community relations director. Ralph M. Oakley is vice president and chief operating officer of QNI, and Mary Winters is assistant general manager at *The Herald-Whig*. Tim Oakley is national sales director at KTIW in Sioux City, and Peter Oakley works in maintenance for the Hotel Quincy and WGEM.



Writers:

Nancy Slepicka	The Bliss Family
E.H. "Ned" Jenison	The Jenison Family
Vicky Katz Whitaker, Springfield	The Jones Family
Mike Hilfrink	The Oakleys and Lindsays

Editor/designer:

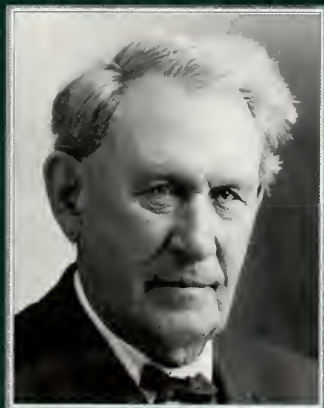
Mike Miner, *Chicago Tribune*



THE JONES FAMILY



THE BLISS FAMILY



THE OAKLEY AND LIDSAYS



THE JENISON FAMILY



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